

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-10 L-03 H-02

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TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

FRB-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 XMB-04 OPIC-06 LAB-04 SIL-01

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R 020956Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 363

INFO AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMCONSUL LAHORE

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

UNCLAS ISLAMABAD 4943

MANILA PASS USADB

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, ECRE, EAGR, PK

SUBJ: STATUS OF TARBELA DAM REPAIRS

SUMMARY: EMBOFF TOURED TARBELA DAM MAY 29 AND FOUND REPAIRS NEARLY COMPLETED AND A MORE CONFIDENT ATTITUDE AMONG PRINCIPAL U.S. CONSULTANTS (TAMS). REPAIRS TO TUNNELS ONE AND TWO AND INSTALLATION OF MID-TUNNEL GATES SHOULD BE FINISHED BY EARLY JULY. NEW GROUTING WORK IS SLIGHTLY BEHIND SCHEDULE AND SOME FURTHER REPAIRS WILL HAVE TO BE MADE TO EXIT AREAS OF TUNNELS THREE AND FOUR AFTER RESERVOIR FILLS IN EARLY AUGUST, BUT THESE ARE NOT MAJOR PROBLEMS. CONTRACTORS HAVE DIVENED SOME OF THE EQUIPMENT AND WORK-FORCE TO FINISHING ACCESS ROADS, DISMANTLING CONCRETE/GRAVEL PLANTS AND TO DOING OTHER CLEAN-UP WORK. TAMS ENGINEERS ANTICIPATE THAT FIRST UNIT OF POWERHOUSE

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WILL BE ON STREAM BEFORE END OF CY 76. RECENT GOP STATEMENTS

IN THE PRESS ALSO INDICATE SATISFACTION WITH THE PROGRESS OF REPAIRS. END SUMMARY.

1. EMBOFF, WHO HAS REGULARLY VISITED TARBELA SITE SINCE DAMAGE OCCURED, FOUND REPAIRS TO TUNNELS ONE AND TWO AND INSTALLATION OF MID-TUNNEL GATES AHEAD OF SCHEDULE. BACK IN MARCH, THE CONTRACTORS ESTABLISHED JULY 15 AS THE TARGET DATE FOR COMPLETION OF THESE REPAIRS WITH SOME DOUBT THAT THIS COULD BE MET. NOW, TAMS OFFICIALS ARE CONFIDENT THAT ALL WORK ON THESE TWO TUNNELS WILL BE FINISHED BY JULY 1. FURTHERMORE, THE PLACEMENT OF CHOKE COLLARS REDUCING TUNNEL DIAMETER FROM 45 TO 36 FEET AT THE OUTLETS OF THESE TUNNELS IS ALMOST COMPLETED ALTHOUGH VIRTUALLY NO ONE BELIEVED IN MARCH THAT THIS COULD BE DONE BEFORE MID-SUMMER. THE CONSULTANTS ARE VERY PLEASED WITH THIS ADDITIONAL SAFETY MEASURE SINCE COLLARS WILL SERVE TO MAINTAIN PRESSURE OF FLOW OF WATER THROUGH THE TUNNELS AND WILL GREATLY REDUCE THE POTENTIAL FOR CAVITATION SHOULD AN EMERGENCY DRAWDOWN OF THE RESERVOIR BE REQUIRED.

2. THE ONLY ADDITIONAL WORK REMAINING IS GROUTING AND REPAIRS TO THE STILLING BASINS AT THE OUTLETS TO TUNNELS THREE AND FOUR. THE GROUTING, TOGETHER WITH RECENTLY COMPLETED ADDITIONAL PRESSURE RELIEF WELLS, SHOULD REDUCE SEEPAGE THROUGH AND UNDER THE DAM. THE GROUTING WORK HAS BEEN DIFFICULT SINCE THERE IS SO MUCH STRUCTURAL METAL IN AREAS OF THE GROUTING THAT SEVERAL HOLES MUST BE TRIED BEFORE ONE IS DRILLED THROUGH TO THE CORRECT DEPTH. THIS GROUTING WORK CAN PROCEED WHILE THE RESERVOIR IS FILLING. WHEN THE RESERVOIR FILLS TO SPILLWAY LEVEL IN EARLY AUGUST, IRRIGATION NEEDS DOWNSTREAM WILL BE MET VIA FLOW OVER THE SPILLWAY RATHER THAN THROUGH THE TUNNELS SO THAT TUNNELS THREE AND FOUR CAN BE CHECKED AND REPAIRS MADE TO EROSION IN THE STILLING BASINS. THIS EROSION WAS CAUSED BY THE PARTICULAR METHOD OF EMERGENCY USE DURING DRAWDOWN AND IS NOT A DESIGN OR MATERIAL FAULT.

3. CONSTRUCTION WORK ON THE FRIST UNIT OF THE POWERHOUSE IS PROCEEDING WELL WITH AN ON-STREAM TARGET OF DECEMBER 1976. SWITCHYARD EQUIPMENT IS NOW BEING RECEIVED. THE CONTRACTORS

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WILL NOT BEGIN TO CONNECT THE OUTLET OF TUNNEL ONE TO THE POWERHOUSE UNTIL LATE THIS CY IN CASE THE TUNNEL IS NEEDED FOR ANOTHER EMERGENCY DRAWDOWN OF THE RESERVOIR.

4. THE RESERVOIR IS PRESENTLY 100 FEET DEEP PERMITTING A TEST OF THE SIDE-SCAN SONAR TECHNIQUE FOR MONITORING SEEPAGE THROUGH THE CLAY BLANKET IMMEDIATELY UPSTREAM OF THE DAM. SO FAR THERE IS NO INDICATION OF SERIOUS

DISTURBANCES IN THE BLANKET. TWO BOTTOM-DUMP, SELF-
PROPELLED BARGES HAVE ARRIVED IN COUNTRY AND WILL BE USED
ON THE RESERVOIR TO ADD MATERIAL TO THE BLANKET IF
SIDANCE IS NOTED. THE SUCCESS OF THIS SONAR TECHNIQUE WILL
REDUCE THE POTENTIAL NEED, WRITTEN IN THE CONTRACT, TO
EMPTY THE RESERVOIR TO INSPECT THE BLANKET. IN APPROXIMATELY
TEN DAYS, THE INFLOW INTO THE RESERVOIR WILL BE GREATER
THAN THE OUTFLOW THROUGH TUNNELS THREE AND FOUR AND THE
RESERVOIR WILL AGAIN START TO RISE.
BYROADE

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